

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso
(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Alejo, Allen, Block, Campos, Roger*
***Hernández, Perea, and V. Manuel Pérez*)**
(Coauthor: Senator Hernandez)

June 9, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, as amended, Hueso. Synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants.

This measure would request that law enforcement, *first responders*, schools, local elected officials, and parents educate youth about the risks associated with synthetic drugs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Synthetic cannabinoids commonly known as
2 “Spice” or “K2,” and synthetic stimulants commonly known as
3 “bath salts,” are growing in use and have become an increasingly
4 significant problem in California; and
5 WHEREAS, The initial appearance of these synthetic
6 cannabinoids in herbal incense products in the United States
7 occurred in November 2008 when United States Customs and
8 Border Protection first encountered products such as Spice; and
9 WHEREAS, Due to sophisticated marketing, the products that
10 contain these synthetic cannabinoids or stimulants are perceived
11 as “legal” alternatives to marijuana and cocaine despite the fact

1 that they are typically advertised as herbal incense, bath salts, or
2 plant food; and

3 WHEREAS, Synthetic cannabinoids are referred to as the new
4 marijuana and synthetic stimulants as the new cocaine, and are
5 gaining popularity at an alarming rate among high school and
6 college students and persons on probation and parole; and

7 WHEREAS, While having the same or stronger physiological
8 effects as high-potency marijuana, synthetic marijuana products
9 do not show a positive reading in a urinalysis test, which adds to
10 the desirability and increased growth among drug abusers and
11 increases the threat to public health and safety by making detection
12 difficult; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Association of Poison Control
14 Centers (AAPCC) reported receiving 14 calls related to synthetic
15 cannabinoids at United States poison centers in 2009, 2,874 calls
16 in 2010, and, in just the first four months of 2011, the AAPCC has
17 already received 2,052 calls; and

18 WHEREAS, The AAPCC also reported receiving 301 calls in
19 2010 on the synthetic stimulant “bath salts” and has received 1,381
20 calls in the first three months of this year; and

21 WHEREAS, The Drug Enforcement Agency adopted a
22 temporary federal policy on March 1, 2011, banning some synthetic
23 substances, which represent a recent phenomenon in the United
24 States designer drug market; and

25 WHEREAS, Preliminary indications are that these synthetic
26 cannabinoids, currently unregulated in California, are from three
27 to over 100 times more potent than THC, the active ingredient
28 found in marijuana; and

29 WHEREAS, At least 20 states, as well as the federal government
30 and military, have already included one or more of these synthetic
31 chemical compounds on schedules of controlled substances, but
32 none of these chemicals are currently listed on California’s
33 schedule of controlled substances; and

34 WHEREAS, Synthetic drugs have been attributed to at least
35 nine deaths in the United States since last year; and

36 WHEREAS, The Assembly of the State of California recognizes
37 the growing threat of synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants to the
38 health, safety, and welfare of our citizens before the problem
39 becomes epidemic in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature needs to convey that the
3 purpose of this resolution is to raise awareness of synthetic drugs.
4 Synthetic drugs pose a significant health risk and the Legislature
5 calls upon law enforcement, *first responders*, schools, local elected
6 officials, and parents to educate youth about the risks associated
7 with synthetic drugs; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O